

Hundred and sixty-first Session

161 EX/23 Rev.
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REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONVENTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Item 3.2.2 of the agenda

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL ON THE SEVENTH SESSION
OF THE JOINT ILO/UNESCO COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE
APPLICATION OF THE RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING THE STATUS
OF TEACHERS (CEART), AND REPORT BY THE COMMITTEE ON
CONVENTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS THEREON (161 EX/8)**

1. In accordance with Rule 16.2 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations (CR) elected Mr Eriabu Lugujjo, representative of Uganda, temporary Chairperson.
2. The Committee held a meeting on 24 May 2001 to consider this item of the agenda, notably document 161 EX/8 which summarized the findings and recommendations of the seventh session of CEART and the final report of that ILO/UNESCO experts' meeting (CEART/VII/2000/10).
3. The Committee noted that the final report of the ILO/UNESCO experts had not been given to it in sufficient time to review it. It further noted that this report, and document 161 EX/8, raised methodological and substantive issues for CR which required clarification and information from the Secretariat.
4. The main points needing clarification were: the relation between CEART and CR regarding communications concerning alleged human rights violations; the relation between the Recommendations of 1966 and 1997 concerning the status of teaching personnel, on the one hand, and UNESCO's Conventions on education on the other; and the relation of the educational programme content of document 161 EX/8 as well as CEART/VII/2000/10 to the work of the CR.
5. The Committee therefore recommends that the Executive Board adopt the following decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 161 EX/8,
2. Regrets the late reception of the final report of the ILO/UNESCO experts (CEART/VII/2000/10), which merits further attention and reflection;
3. Asks the Director-General to prepare for the 162nd session of the Executive Board an information paper clarifying the relation between CEART and CR with respect to document CEART/VII/2000/10;
4. Defers consideration of this item until the 162nd session of the Executive Board.

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Dialogue between the Committee and the Chairperson of the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

6. The Committee met Ms Virginia Bonoan-Dandan, Chairperson of the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights during an informal meeting on 21 May 2001.
7. The Committee members expressed their satisfaction at the fruitful dialogue that had been established on that occasion, particularly with respect to the implementation of standard-setting instruments concerning the right to education.
8. The Committee decided to include it in its report on item 3.2.2 of the Executive Board's agenda a summary of the discussions that had taken place during the meeting (see Annex). The proposals made on that occasion will be considered at the Committee's next session.

ANNEX

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

*Informal Meeting on Monitoring the Right to Education:
Dialogue between the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations (CR)
and the Chairperson of the United Nations Committee on Economic,
Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)
Monday, 21 May 2001 (p.m.)*

Summary of debate

1. An *Informal Meeting on Monitoring the Right to Education: Dialogue between the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations (CR) and the Chairperson of the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)* was organized in the afternoon of Monday, 21 May 2001 for an exchange of experience and ideas, in recognition of the complementarity in the work of UNESCO and of CESCR for monitoring the right to education.
2. The dialogue in which 15 Member States took part, was very instructive and fruitful in addressing the substantive questions presented in the information document prepared by the Secretariat.
3. Professor Virginia Dandan, Chairperson of CESCR, made a statement, characterizing the meeting as a “historical occasion” and explained the working methods of CESCR. She underlined the importance given to the right to education in the dialogue it maintains with the States Parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Appreciating UNESCO’s growing collaboration with CESCR in this field, she shared with CR recent developments, especially with a view to achieving, as a follow-up to the Dakar Framework for Action, the right to basic education for all. A prominent role is now given to UNESCO in the *Concluding Observations* made by CESCR after examining the country reports, recommending to governments further action in this respect.
4. In recognition of the shared concerns and common objectives of UNESCO and of CESCR and the high priority UNESCO places on promoting the right to education, the Chairperson of CESCR put forward a proposal for institutionalizing collaboration with UNESCO. She proposed the setting up of a Joint UNESCO/CESCR Expert-Group on Monitoring the Right to Education in all its dimensions, giving broad indications as to its mandate.
5. Referring to UNESCO’s long history of promoting the right to education, Mr John Daniel, Assistant Director-General for Education, welcomed the dialogue to carry the Dakar Framework further, and stated that UNESCO will be pleased to offer help in monitoring development in education.
6. The debate emphasized the importance of translating normative instruments relating to the right to education into national laws and practices, and especially of combined efforts of CESCR and CR in the implementation of the Convention against Discrimination in Education (1960) in the context of 30 C/Resolution 15, which foresees cooperation with the United Nations in monitoring the right to education. In this respect, reference was made to the

Informal Expert Consultation on Monitoring the Right to Education, organized at UNESCO Headquarters on 23 April 2001 which benefited from a contribution by the Rapporteur of CESCR and the Representative of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

7. The debate also related to the innovative ideas and new forms of collaboration between CESCR and UNESCO with a view to imparting synergy to the follow up to the Dakar Framework for Action within the United Nations system. The initiative by the Chairperson of CESCR for enhancing collaboration with UNESCO and her proposal for institutionalizing it for monitoring the right to education were commended by Member States. The dialogue expressed very clear determination on the part of Member States to monitor and promote the right to education for all in a forward-looking perspective and to develop further collaboration with CESCR in the light of UNESCO's prominent role and priority concerns in this field.